REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed July 10, 2006. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 4, 6 – 14, 20 – 25, 31 and 32 are pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 14 and 20, have added claims 31 and 32, and have canceled claims 5, 15 – 19 and 26 - 30 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 5, 15 – 19 and 26 - 30 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 17 and 20 - 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Dieckert* in view of JP 01-102230 and *Weimer*. With respect to claims 5, 15 – 17 and 26 – 29, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims have been canceled and that the rejections, therefore, have been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the grounds that the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every feature of the claims.

In this regard, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite:

> 1. (Currently Amended) A mechanical draft system comprising:
> an intake fan operative to draw air from outside a mechanical room into the mechanical room;
> a first heating appliance having a first air intake operative to draw air from the mechanical room into the first heating appliance and having first air exhaust operative to exhaust air out of the first heating appliance;
> a second heating appliance having a second air intake operative to draw air from the mechanical room into the second heating appliance and having a second air exhaust operative to exhaust air out of the second heating appliance;
> ducts, connected to the first and second air exhausts operative to transport air outside the mechanical room;
> an exhaust fan, connected to the ducts, for drawing air from the ducts to the atmosphere;
> a first pressure sensor, located within the mechanical room, for supplying a first pressure reading;
> a second pressure sensor, located within the atmosphere, for supplying a second pressure reading;
> a differential transducer operative to receive the first pressure reading and the second pressure reading, the differential transducer outputting a differential pressure signal indicative of the difference between the first and second pressure readings; and
> a pressure controller operative to control a speed of the intake fan, a speed of the exhaust fan, and operation of the first and second heating appliances in response to the differential pressure signal;
> ***wherein the pressure controller is selectively operative in a rotation check mode in which at least one of the intake fan and the exhaust fan is provided with less than normal operating power in order that such fan rotates at less than normal operating speed such that a direction of rotation of the fan can be visually confirmed by an operator.***

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 1 unpatentable. In particular, the cited art does not teach or reasonably suggest at least "wherein the pressure controller is selectively operative in a rotation check mode in which at least one of the intake fan and the exhaust fan is provided with less than normal operating

power in order that such fan rotates at less than normal operating speed such that a direction of rotation of the fan can be visually confirmed by an operator," as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2 – 4 and 6 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 7, Applicants have amended that claim to recite:

> 7. A pressure controller for controlling the flow of air through a mechanical draft system, the pressure controller comprising:
> an appliance controller configured to control the operation of a plurality of appliances;
> an intake fan controller configured to control the speed of an intake fan;
> an exhaust fan controller configured to control the speed of an exhaust fan; and
> a processor configured to receive a differential pressure signal and to control the operation of the plurality of appliances, the speed of the intake fan, and the speed of the exhaust fan in response to the differential pressure signal;
> ***wherein the processor is further operative to control at least one of the intake fan and the exhaust fan in a bearing cycle mode in which, responsive to the processor determining that at least one of the intake fan and the exhaust fan has been inactive for a threshold time duration, the fan that has been inactive is activated such that internal components of that fan are lubricated.***

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 7 unpatentable. In particular, the cited art does not teach or reasonably suggest at least "wherein the processor is further operative to control at least one of the intake fan and the exhaust

fan in a bearing cycle mode in which, responsive to the processor determining that at least one of the intake fan and the exhaust fan has been inactive for a threshold time duration, the fan that has been inactive is activated such that internal components of that fan are lubricated," as recited in claim 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 8 - 14 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 7, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 20, Applicants have amended that claim to recite:

> 20. A method for automatically controlling pressure in a mechanical draft system using a pressure controller, the method comprising:
> ***storing a restart priority of each of a plurality of appliances controlled by a pressure controller***;
> checking a differential pressure between the interior of a mechanical room and the atmosphere;
> adjusting speed of at least one of an intake fan and exhaust fan in the mechanical draft system when the differential pressure is not equalized;
> ***shutting down the plurality of appliances in the mechanical room when the differential pressure exceeds a predetermined threshold***; and
> ***restarting the plurality of appliances based on the restart priority of each of the appliances such that, responsive to each of the appliances being restarted, a subsequent one of the appliances is not restarted unless the differential pressure is equalized***.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 20 unpatentable. In particular, the cited art does not teach or reasonably suggest at least "storing a restart

priority of each of a plurality of appliances controlled by a pressure controller" and "restarting the plurality of appliances based on the restart priority of each of the appliances such that, responsive to each of the appliances being restarted, a subsequent one of the appliances is not restarted unless the differential pressure is equalized," as recited in claim 20. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 21 - 25 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 20, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

Newly Added Claims

Upon entry of this response, Applicants have added new claims 31 and 32. No new matter has been added, with support for the limitations of these claims being found at [0051] to [0052] and [0054], respectively. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reason that these claims are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, the allowability of which is set forth above. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

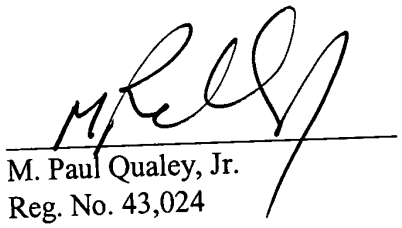
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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